

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al)

- AGAINST -)

ARAKI, SADA0, et al)

A F F I D A V I T

I, OKADA, Keisuke, do swear on my conscience that the following is true.

I was Minister of the Navy in the TANAKA Cabinet from April 20, 1927 until July 1, 1929. I was Minister of the Navy in the SAITO Cabinet from May 26, 1932 to January 1, 1933. I was Prime Minister of Japan from July 8, 1934 to March 8, 1936.

Beginning around 1928, there was a general tendency in the army to expand on the continent of Asia. General TANAKA, Prime Minister at this time had completed plan regarding the continent and sent a representative to Manchuria to obtain from CHANG TSO LIN important railroad concessions for opening up new lines which could be laid according to the original program only if a condition of peace prevailed in Manchuria. In order to maintain peace, the aforesaid Premier TANAKA felt that it was important that CHANG TSO LIN should be kept in Manchuria and not in Peking. Therefore, in order to prevent civil war in southern Manchuria, the aforesaid CHANG TSO LIN started for Mukden and on the way, was killed by the blowing up of a railway bridge. When this reached the Cabinet, the aforesaid Premier TANAKA was very angry and said that "if the Army takes such measures as that, we will never be able to develop our plan." The aforesaid Premier TANAKA said further that the responsible people must be severely punished to prevent such incidents again on the continent. Thereafter, in a conference with myself and the War Minister, General SHIRAKAWA, the aforesaid Premier TANAKA reached an agreement to proceed immediately to the Imperial Palace and make a report to the Emperor on this matter. Following this conference with the Emperor, the aforesaid Premier TANAKA returned from the Palace to the Cabinet and instructed the War Minister to go ahead and proceed with the punishment of the persons responsible for the killing of CHANG TSO LIN. The aforesaid General SHIRAKAWA returned to the office of the War Ministry and was unable to obtain the desired action in connection with the punishment of the persons responsible for the aforementioned murder because General SUCIYAMA, Hajime, Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau and the Chief of the General Staff, General KANAYA, Hanzo felt that the Army should take care of its own problems and discipline. As the Prime Minister General TANAKA could not report to the Emperor that the culprits had been punished as the Throne desired, he resigned with his Cabinet. The Kwantung Army proved by this event that it was more powerful than the Japanese Government in Tokyo and that its influence extended even into the General Staff itself.

While I was Navy Minister during the first seven months of the SAITO Cabinet, the Cabinet experienced great difficulties with the Army for the reason that Admiral SAITO, the Prime Minister, was pursuing a policy of reducing the Army budget and refusing the Army additional funds.

When I became Premier of Japan in 1934, the power of the Army was increasing. In 1935 General MASAKI, Jinzaburo was forced to resign as Inspector General of Military Education. Lieutenant Colonel AIZAWA in protest over this, forced his way into the Bureau of Military Affairs and killed Lieutenant General NAGATA, the Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau. Although I, as Prime Minister, felt very strongly about the AIZAWA affair and pressed for this officers prosecution, the Army carried out its own investigation and did not permit interference by the Prime Minister or the Cabinet. Even though I was Prime Minister, I was powerless to investigate this crime committed by an Army officer.

At this time General HAYASHI, Senjuro was the Minister of War. After the assassination of the aforesaid General NAGATA who was the Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau, the aforesaid General HAYASHI refused to continue in the Cabinet although I tried to persuade him to do so saying, "Let's stick together until we are both killed." The aforesaid General HAYASHI said for him to continue in the Cabinet would be the cause of disturbance and trouble from the militarists and he recommended General KAWASHIMA whom all the Generals agreed to try to protect. It was very clear to all of us in the Cabinet that whoever might succeed the aforesaid General HAYASHI would be running considerable risk.

On February 26, 1936, 22 officers and some 1400 men revolted against the Government and terrorized Tokyo for three and a half days. The rebels seized the Premier's official residence, the Diet Building, the Home and War Offices, the Metropolitan Police Building and the General Staff Building. My Finance Minister, TAKAHASHI, Admiral Count SAITO, Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, and General WATANABE were killed by this group of army radicals using machine guns. Count TAMANO, former Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, the Grand Chamberlain SUZUKI and myself barely escaped death. As a result of this army insurrection I and my Cabinet resigned.

/s/ K. Okada
OKADA, Keisuke

Sworn and subscribed to before the undersigned officer by the abovesigned OKADA, Keisuke, at the War Ministry Building, Tokyo, Japan, this 17th day of June, 1946.

/s/ Harryman Dorsey
Captain, JAGD

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, /s/ Fred F. Suzukawa, HEREBY CERTIFY That I am fully conversant with the Japanese and English Languages, and that I, this day, read the foregoing Affidavit to the above-named OKADA, Keisuke in Japanese, and in so doing, truly and correctly translated the contents thereof from English into Japanese; and that said OKADA, Keisuke stated to me that the contents of said Affidavit were the truth, and that he was willing to sign said Affidavit under oath; and that said OKADA, Keisuke was duly sworn in my presence and signed said Affidavit under oath in my presence; and that all proceedings incidental to the administration of said oath and the signing of said Affidavit were truly and correctly translated from Japanese into English and English into Japanese and fully understood and comprehended by said Affiant.

Dated this 17th day of June, 1946, at Tokyo, Japan.

/s/ Fred F. Suzukawa
2nd Lt. AJS